

Amendments to the Specification

Please amend the last paragraph on page 2, continuing on page 3, as follows:

The gravimetric blender as originated by the applicant and as copied widely throughout the world typically includes hoppers for each of the components of the solid material to be blended together. Typically several hoppers or several ~~components~~ compartments in a hopper may be provided, such as one compartment for "regrind" material, one compartment for "natural" material, one ~~component~~ compartments for solid color additive material and one compartment for "additive". When the gravimetric blender operates, the unit desirably operates automatically, adding each of the component solid materials in the proper, desired percentages. Each solid material component is dispensed by weight into a single weigh bin. Once the proper amounts of each component have been serially dispensed into the weigh bin, all of the components are dropped together into a mixing chamber from the weigh bin.

Please amend the last paragraph on page 23, continuing on page 24, as follows:

Weigh bin 15 is connected to load cell 32 through an aperture in solid side panel 30C of frame 14 by complementary brackets 156 and 186, as illustrated in Figure 10. Other suitable means for mounting weigh bin respecting load cell 32 are disclosed in United States patent 6,007,236 issued 28 December 1999 in the name of Stephen B. Maguire and Patent Cooperation Treaty patent application PCT/US96/19485, filed 10 December 1996 by Maguire Products, Inc., the disclosures of which are incorporated by reference.